

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SECTO 08046 01 OF 02 050735Z
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 /079 W
-----103334 050743Z /13

O 050554Z AUG 77

FM USDEL SECRETARY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN INNEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDITAE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIAE
AMEMBASSY DHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSULAE JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 08046

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 08046 01 OF 02 050735Z

DEPT FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS
NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJ: SECSTATE VISIT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS BRIEFING BY HODDING CARTER 8/5/77:

CARTER: THIS IS A READOUT ON THE MEETING THAT WERE HELD THIS MORNING WITH FM KHADDAM AND IN THE AFTERNOON WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD. THE MEETING WITH THE FM LASTED AS A WORKING MEETING FROM 9:30 UNTIL 12. THEY THEN WAITED, TALKING INFORMALLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AND WENT IN TO SEE PRESIDENT ASSAD AT ROUGHLY 1250, AND WERE IN THERE UNTIL 4:15. IN BOTH CONVERSATIONS, WHICH WERE WARM, A SERIOUS SET OF REVIEWS OF OUR PROPOSALS AND IDEAS AND THEIRS, AN OPEN EXCHANGE OF WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS CHARACTERIZED AS A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING. THEY DISCUSSED IN LARGE PART ALL THE ISSUES THAT AROSE WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, BUT ALSO ADDED A DISCUSSION OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION, RAISING IN PARTICULAR OUR INTENTIONS, WHICH PRESIDENT ASSAD WELCOMED, OF HELPING IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LEBANESE ARMY. AND ALSO DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF A UN PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

Q. DID HE WELCOME THAT?

A. I THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK HIM ABOUT THAT. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THAT. THEIR DISCUSSIONS COVERED BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. ON THE PROPOSALS WE HAD TO OFFER THERE WERE DIFFERENCES. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, ALSO A GOOD EXCHANGE ON BOTH SETS OF IDEAS. THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SECTO 08046 01 OF 02 050735Z

PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING WITH THE FM IN ADDITION TO THE TWO FOREIGN SECRETARIES WERE MINISTER OF STATE ADI, DEPUTY FM RAFAI, DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS SHOULFI, AND A NOTE TAKER. AND ON OUR SIDE, UNDERSECRETARY HABIB, AMBASSADOR MURPHY, ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON, ASST. SECRETARY SAUNDERS, AND MR. WUANDT OF THE NSC AS NOTE TAKER, MR. SABBAGH AS THE INTERPRETER. IN THE ASSAD MEETING, ON OUR SIDE IT WAS THE SAME WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT MR. SAUNDERS TOOK NOTES AND MR. WUANDT DID NOT PARTICIPATE. ON THE SYRIAN SIDE, MR. DAOUDI, POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE PRESIDENCY, AND MR. RAIS PARTICIPATED. THE PRESIDENT REPEATED HIS FIRM COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO PROCESS WHICH WOULD TAKE US DOWN THE ROAD TO A NEGOTIATED PEACE. TO ANTICIPATE SOME QUESTIONS, THIS IS STILL PART OF A CONTINUING PROCESS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO CHARACTERIZE THE UPS OR DOWNS OF THE RECONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE. THAT IS TO SAY, I DON'T HAVE A TEMPERATURE READING FOR YOU ON THE BASIS OF TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS, ON HOW MUCH CLOSER OR HOW MUCH FURTHER APART WE ARE ON THAT ROAD.

Q. WHAT ABOUT WORKING GROUP?

A. THE DISCUSSION OF THE WORKING GROUP WAS A FULL ONE. AND THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON IT. I THINK I WOULD RATHER LEAVE, AND MUST LEAVE THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO THIS FOR THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF.

Q. AT THE RISK OF REPETITION, HOW ARE CHARACTERIZING THE ASSAD-VANCE MEETING?

A. I CHARACTERIZE IT AS VERY WARM, WIDE-RANGING, CONSTRUCTIVE--A VERY USEFUL EXERCISE.

Q. CAN WE GO INTO THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND TRY TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SECTO 08046 01 OF 02 050735Z

BREAK IT DOWN? HE LIKES THE IDEA THAT WE WOULD HELP BUILD THE LEBANESE ARMY--HE THOUGH THAT WAS A TERRIFIC IDEA. NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ISSUES. HOW DID HE FEEL ABOUT THEM?

A. THE ONLY ONE I MENTIONED WAS THE UN FORCE. I THINK THAT I AM REALLY NOT PERPARED TO GO INTO A LONG CHARACTORIZATION EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THE QUESTION OF UN FORCES IN LEBANON--AND I'M NOTING THIS MYSELF--IS ULTIMATELY A FUNCTION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY, AND NO DECISION ON THAT COULD BE MADE.

Q. WELL ALSO THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF AID MONEY IS A FUNCTION OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, BUT YOU SAID HE WELCOMED THAT. WHAT I'M TRYING TO GE FROM YOU...

A. I RECOGNIZE WHAT YOU'ER TRYING TO GET.

Q. I RECOGNIZE THAT YOU'M WILLING TO SAY HE WELCOMES US SENDING HIM AID. YOU AREN'T EMBARRASSED ABOUT SAYING THAT. IF YOU WOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE OTHER (UNCLEAR) THA'S A LITTLE MORE IMPORTANT.

A. LIKE WHAT?

Q. DID VANCE SAY ANYTHING TO HIM ABOUT GETTING HIS TROOPS OUT OF LEBANON?

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION CAME UP IN THAT KIND OF CONTEXT AT ALL.

Q. DID THE QUESTION OF LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY COME UP AT ALL?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 SECTO 08046 01 OF 02 050735Z

A. I'M SURE THEY HAD A FULL DISCUSSION ON THE LEBANESE
SITUATION.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY TELL THE U.S. SUPPORTS LEBANESE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SECTO 08046 02 OF 02 050708Z
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

-----103006 050742Z /13

O 050554Z AUG 77 ZFF-6

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SECTO 08046

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 08046 02 OF 02 050708Z

DEPT FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS

NSC FOR DR. BRZEXINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

SOVEREIGNTY?

A. THAT OF COURSE IS A REITERATION OF A LONG-STANDING
AMERICAN POLICY.

Q. THAT UN FORCE. WAS THAT AN OBSERVOR FORCE OR A REAL
FORCE?

A. THAT AGAIN..IT IS ENTIRELY IN THE TALKING STAGE.
THERE IS NO SET PLAN FOR THIS.

Q. WAS THERE ANY QUESTION OF SENDING SYRIAN TROOPS DOWN
TO THE SOUTH OF LEBANON.

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT QUESTION AROSE.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS TOMMORROW?

A. TOMORROW THE SECRETARY PLANS TO GO TO PALMYRA.

Q. EARLIER TODAY THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS WORKING GROUP BEFORE LEAVING
HERE TOMORROW.

A. I THINK THAT GIVEN THE LENGTH OF THE VARIOUS MEETINGS
HE'S HAD THAT THE BEST I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW IS THAE ONLY
DEFINITE TIME HE'S GOING TO GET WITH YOU IS ON THE PLANE.

Q. YOU SAID EARLIER THAT HE LEFT A SUGGESTION OF THE
WORKING GROUP WITH ASSAD. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "LEFT A
SUGGESTION"?

A. WELL, I MEAN THAT THEY DISCUSSED IT FULLY, AND HE IS
ALSO GOING TO CONSIDER ALL THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
WORKING GROUP, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SOME MORE TO
SAY. AFTER ALL, THERE WILL BE OTHER CONVERSATIONS THAN
FACE TO FACE

Q. FOR THIS TRIP OR NEXT TRIP?

A. I THINK THERE ARE STILL DISCUSSIONS GOING ON, AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SECTO 08046 02 OF 02 050708Z

I AM NOT PREPARED TO CUT OFF. HE WILL BE TRAVELING
WITH THE FM. THIS EVENING THERE WILL BE A DINNER AT THE
RESIDENCE, AND THEY WILL BE TRAVELING TOGETHER TOMORROW
GOING TO PALMYRA. AT THIS POINT I THINK I AM NOT ABLE

TO CHARACTERIZE ANY FURTHER.

Q. IS THERE A POSSIBILITY TO STOPPING HERE ON THE WAY BACK AFTER HE STOPS IN ISRAEL?

A. IF IT SEEMS USEFUL FOR US TO DO SO.

1. HODDING, THE SECRETARY MENTIONED THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES. IS ONE OF THOSE DIFFERENCES THE VIEW ON THE WORKING GROUP?

A. LET ME SAY THIS TO TRY TO GET THE FOCUS A LITTLE BIT BROADER THAN THE WORKING GROUP. WE HAVE A WHOLE SET OF PROPOSALS WHICH WE HAVE BROUGHT. TO GO BACK TO THE OBERDORFER QUESTION THE OTHER DAY, I AM NOT BACKING AWAY FROM SAYING "PROPOSALS". AND ONE OF THEM IS THE WORKING GROUP, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS. THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES AND THERE ARE SOME AGREEMENTS, AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO DOWN THE LIST, BECAUSE I CAN'T.

Q. ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO THE WORKING GROUPS OR ARE THE PROPOSALS IN OTHER AREAS?

-. THERE ARE PROPOSALS IN OTHER AREAS. THE SECRETARY HAS ALWAYS SAID THERE IS OBVIOUSLY THE CONJUNCTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Q. THERE ISN'T SOMETHING THAT WAS PROPOSED THAT HASN'T SURFACED YET, IS THERE?

A. NO

Q. YOU SAID, "WE HAVE PROPOSALS" AND YOU MENTIONED THE WORKING GROUP. DOES THAT MEAN IT'S NOT SADAT'S IDEA, IT WAS AN AMERICAN IDEA?

A. WE ARE CARRYING THAT AS WE PROMISED WE WOULD, IN SEEKING RESPONSES TO THAT IDEA. AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID, HE WELCOMED THIS IDEA OF THE PRESIDENT'S AND WOULD TAKE IT TO THE OTHER STOPS ON THIS TRIP.

1. TO COME UP ON THIS DECISION SO QUICKLY, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED PRIOR TO THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SECTO 08046 02 OF 02 050708Z

TO EGYPT BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE AMERICANS?

-. I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY HAS NOTED MR. SADAT HAS RAISED THAT IDEA BEFORE THIS TRIP.

Q. BUT YOU STILL WANT TO CALL IT AN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT THE FORM PRESENTED THAT NIGHT IS AN EGYPTIAN FORM....

Q. NON-ISRAEL AND NON-AMERICAN?

A. ..AND AS THE SECRETARY HAS NOTED, HE RAISED A SIMILAR IDEA AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS WORKING AROUND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TALK TO THE VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTERS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

Q. THE SYRIANS OBVIOUSLY FELT LEFT OUT OF THE PRIOR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

-. I THINK YOU BETTER ASK PRESIDENT ASSAD THAT. I WOULDN'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THEIR REACTION.

Q. IT HAS JUST COME OUT THAT THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SAID NOW THAT THE INTENTION OF SADAT WAS TO SAY...NOT TO SAY THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD GET TOGETHER.

A. I JUST SAW THAT. I WON'T HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT.

Q. IS IT YOUR IDEA, YOUR CONCLUSION FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT VERY WELL SIT DOWN IN A CIRCLE AND TALK TO EACH OTHER?

A. IT IS MY IDEA, AND THE IDEA OF A WORKING GROUP, THAT WE'RE TRYING TO GET EVERYBODY'S VIEWS ON IT--IF INDEED IT IS A FEASIBLE APPROACH. WE ARE SIMPLY TRAVELING AROUND THESE NATIONS AND SEEING HOW IT MIGHT DEVELOP.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO08046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770280-1165
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770892/aaaaczr.tel
Line Count: 346
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b5ed6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1696999
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECSTATE VISIT FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS BRIEFING BY HODDING CARTER 8/5/77: CARTER: THIS IS A READOUT ON THE MEETING THAT WERE
TAGS: OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b5ed6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009